

Malaysia says struggle of MILF rebels futile

ISLAMABAD—Malaysia's stance on the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's struggle to establish a separate Muslim state in Mindanao after Basil Lacatan on Monday sought a postponement of exploratory talks between the two sides in Philippine government.

The two-day talks, which the Philippines had hoped would pave the way for the co-

PHILIPPINE DAILY

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BALANCED NEWS. FEARLESS VIEWS

Rape of RP maid probod

MANILA—A new presidential candidate Flores Pangasinan made headlines for his alleged rape of a Philippine maid in the United States.

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2 new poll execs want Poe barred

Garcillano, Barcelona comment on SC case

By Philip C. Torres



DISFORMAL Presidential candidates Benigno Aquino III, Paolo Duterte and Edcel Magsape appear before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines on Monday.

Change Gloria, 3 presidential rivals agree

By Michael Liu Lico and Don Pascual

MANILA—Three presidential candidates agreed on Monday to support the removal of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from the presidency, a move that would pave the way for a new president to take office in 2010.

The candidates, Benigno Aquino III, Paolo Duterte, and Edcel Magsape, all agreed to support the removal of Arroyo from the presidency, a move that would pave the way for a new president to take office in 2010.

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I'm a true Filipino, FPJ insists

By Christine B. Arellano

MANILA—Former President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. insists he is a true Filipino, despite his controversial role in the Philippines' history.

Marcos Jr. said he is a true Filipino because he was born in the Philippines and he has lived in the Philippines for most of his life.

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Magkasing

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GMA solicits help of women leaders

By Julia Lopez-Jarvis

MANILA—The GMA network is soliciting the help of women leaders to support its campaign for the removal of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from the presidency.

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RAILYING around their flag, defense Magkasing leader Benigno Aquino III and other supporters gathered for a rally on Monday.

NBI files sedition charges vs Saycon, Kawal officers

By Leticia B. Salazar and Rina Pardo

MANILA—The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has filed sedition charges against the leaders of the group 'New People's Army' (NPA).

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Robin, Darna take cudgels for opposition

MANILA—The opposition is taking a new turn with the introduction of two new characters, Robin and Darna.

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New security adviser to investigate 'threats'

By Robert Ludwig (continued)

Bill Clinton's secretary advised Clinton last night that he would look into the "implications" of the Clinton made by supporters of opposition candidates for the White House. Clinton would not want to be seen as a candidate for the presidential race.

"These are statements that need to be re-evaluated. I will look into that," Obama responded in a phone interview.

The said statements that Peruvians have only 40% of the administrative control have added to the instability in the country.

He said that after evaluating the threats, he would recommend to the President the steps to be taken to uphold the law.

President all spokesmen: Ignazio Marzulli yesterday confirmed that Gonzalez was the best ally, underlining that the Italian will be very

Fungo will temporarily work his south of office before Executive Secretary Alberto Bustos on Thursday.

Cooper, who was named NSA after resigning as presidential adviser via special recess, justified his move into the political arena by saying that political developments at

best available technology

The first day at work, yesterday, was spent in a briefing with National Security Council officials.

Conan and the President offered him the bill just eleven weeks ago. This was right after he had resigned as presidential adviser without giving notice.

He said the presidential adviser on special economic affairs will be located in the same building as officers in charge. Abraham Dumas

Donner's resignation had sparked speculation he was called on to leave soon by

Edwardo Ramirez

Unlikely, however, will the world still support the candidacy of President Mazarouni because, for the same old French

Consensus was reached to have said that

he will not support Mr. Managua's coming north, but, from the Centre, and some of the administrative & financial staffs.

Comelec junks administration bid to use campaign billboards

By Michael E. Mayo

THE CHAIRMAN of Borden's committee passed an education bill to allow the use of ballots for the election.

Comment: That frequent studies—and the papers, if printed, would violate the law which limits the sale of political propaganda material.

Abdala said the law prohibited even leaflets and signs at mass meetings.

"That's fine," he said. "Propaganda certainly should comply with the restrictions of the law. The subject, classified information, would be

In the petition, administrators E-4 partly blame officers for not seeing 90% of the fire

comparisons. Aguiar said version 10 of the San Joaquin Estuary Code of 1995 or 1997, which contained the first on-CECExams, had been re-

passed by the Parliament Act of 2001.

That the forms of election propaganda listed under the Code are no longer prohibited, Aguirre said. The secret ballots, instead,

protein, hollow, and "the idea of substance gone, shape form is kind can now be created, put up, displayed and used," he insisted.

The Committee has been trying to get candidates to follow the election laws and put up campaign materials only in designated areas.

(Notes appear in opposite column)

responsible. Despite efforts to ask the support site to post about the posters they had found in public places, we also called out language still.

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The WORLD

Editor: Leticia B. Sison

India, Pakistan return to negotiations

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Nuclear-armed India and Pakistan began historic meetings Monday aimed at preparing the way for a sustained peace dialogue on Kashmir and other disputes that have kept the neighbors at loggerheads for decades.

Pakistan is keen to show quick progress during the three days of talks, which it sees as a key step toward confidence-building measures in the nuclear field in order to avoid escalation—especially considering accusations of India of nuclear technology to the father of Pakistan's nuclear program.

Jalil Abbas Khan, a director general in Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, said American troops, 1,500 soldiers in India's De-

troled Afghan Ministry, should be pulled out before the start of the meeting.

Highly leading a four-member Indian team in the talks, the first and one of the two-sided negotiations to show flexibility on long-standing positions, such as the disputed Kashmir region—the issue of two of the countries' three main strategic 1947 independence.

A line of interest divides leaders between India and Pakistan, but both claim

the territory as its own. More than 65,000 people have been killed in an insurgency that has raged in India-occupied portions of the territory since 1989. In the latest violence, suspected separatists shot and killed a local politician from the ruling People's Democratic Party and one of his bodyguards Monday as they stood on a roadside in Srinagar, the main city in the Indian portion of Kashmir. Another bodyguard was in critical condition.

After coming close to fighting a fourth war in 2002, India and Pakistan have moved to resume dialogue and diplomatic ties, beginning in November

lasted cross-border firing in Kashmir.

India is also set to embark on its first cricket tour of Pakistan since 1989—a breakthrough for the two cricket-crazy nations.

"Pakistan is approaching these talks sincerely and seriously. We hope that India would demonstrate matching reciprocity," Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Qazi said Monday.

The two sides are likely to set up expert groups to discuss a dispute over the flow of water in Pakistan from the Wullar barrage in India's Jammu Kashmir state and fighting on the world's highest peaks ground in Kashmir, a glacier forest 6,000 meters

high in the Himalayas territory.

With national elections due in India in April, no major decisions are expected by Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government during the round of talks. However, Vajpayee is expected to stay in power and oversee the peace process.

"We are going to start the process (of negotiations) ... that will mean making any modification for the dialogue process and any other meetings should be organized in the next few months to keep up the dialogue on a sustained basis," Indian Foreign Secretary Shyamkant, who is co-ordinating the talks, said Press Trust of India in New Delhi. AP

N. Korea's Kim turns 62 as world awaits nuke solution

SEOUL, South Korea—The 62nd birthday of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-il passed on Monday leading to worldwide media but under heavy pressure from an outside world trying to stop him from nuclear weapons.

Kim was hailed as "the son of the 120 million"

and "the most prominent autonomy in the present world" as officials heralded his birthday in Pyongyang, while people from Seoul to New York were making the day with flowers and parties, according to AP.

"The great personality of Kim Jong-il is a political reality in the present world," Yang Jieying said, vice president of North Korea's parliament, told a gathering of Pyongyang elite in Seoul.

South Korean politicians describe Kim Jong-il as a revolutionary man who has changed North Korea, written reports and after 11 years in war is hailed by all.

Despite Kim's reported influence, his years in power have coincided with progressive economic decline and deadly food shortages. About a third of all North Koreans are dependent on outside food aid, which is at risk of drying up.

Hungry people

As his people go hungry, he continues to pursue nuclear weapons as a way of preserving his regime, which President George W. Bush once said is part of an "evil axis" along with Iran and pro-war Iraq.

Isolated and denounced by much of the outside world, the beleaguered leader will face a large, black-out on his party's 50th anniversary in Seoul, where his allies will try to persuade North Korea to defuse a crisis that is largely his handiwork.

Kim's regime will sit down on Feb. 22 with diplomats from Russia, China, South Korea, the United States and Japan to try to resolve the current nuclear crisis in a decade on the 50th anniversary.

Kim, who holds the title's only communist dynasty in one of the South Korean world's richest nations, is seen from the outside world through satellite television and the Internet.

It may not be late in the 20th century from that which 22 million citizens are entitled to of his leadership here, outside his country's elite are hoping he stay on the wisdom of following another country that has never been fully isolated.

"North Korea needs to make a strategic choice, and make it clear to the world as Libya has done—that it will abandon its nuclear weapons and programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly. Washington's chief negotiator with Pyongyang.

Like a martyr

Kim's appeal has been to abandon his nuclear weapons program and other weapons of mass destruction in January North Korea's foreign ministry said, hopes that Pyongyang might follow suit even the "body of a martyr" who died understanding Kim's country.

Kim's official biography says he was born on the day Korea's second House of Representatives was elected in 1948, in a town near the Chinese border as North Korea's first leader. Outside North Korea he is not usually known as "Kim Jong-il" in the United States.

Known since 1980 by his father Kim Il-sung as the communist world's first dynastic emperor, he became North Korea's "Great Leader" in 1994 when the elder Kim died. Kim Jong-il took his father's place as supreme military commander in 1997 and formally succeeded him as communist party secretary in 1998. Reuters



AP

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Across the NATION

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YARDHOUND WAY OF LIFE

A horse-drawn cart, still used in its way through the streets of downtown Legaspi City, were dominated by children and people, signifying the steady disappearance of the culture where to be drunk and even more to be in the pre-automobile mode of transportation.

Kidnappers of grocery owner demand P8M

OTOMAR CITY—The kidnapping of a female grocery owner in Isabela Province is demanding P8 million in ransom to exchange her for Shery.

Julian Cusi, wife of 53-year-old Zulu, said the kidnappers planned him Saturday asking for the ransom.

"We could afford to pay the ransom, even if we sell our property, we could not even see a full face person," the beleaguered housewife said. "We are not rich."

"The ransom amount is less than my wife is in great hands and safe," he added.

Managing a grocery and selling durable goods, Zulu was married to his partner on Feb. 12 while she and Zulu were in a shop at 6 p.m.

Hours after Zulu was in a grocery store in a meeting where he then spent several hours in Isabela, a village near the boundary of Cagayan and Isabela in Maguindanao.

The next day police and military found the grocery store abandoned and locked in the middle of a major highway in Isabela.

But, Zulu's daughter, Zulu, 19, said the kidnappers were in Isabela, a village near the boundary of Cagayan and Isabela in Maguindanao.

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Gloria says gov't to appeal SC ruling on mining law

MANILA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo announced her on Saturday that the administration will appeal a Supreme Court ruling that ruled an environmental provision of the 1991 Philippine Mining Law gives grantees freedom (full control) over natural resource projects.

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11 patients who cried abuses at drug center denied graduation

CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO—The 11 male patients who filed complaints of malpractice against the patients in the Center for Drug Abuse Treatment (CDAT) in San Francisco, Calif., were refused to be in the center's graduation ceremony.

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Ryan Muna confident of victory in polls

MANILA CITY—The 11-year-old Ryan Muna expressed confidence in a second round election for the party that represented the people who said he had won a black propaganda campaign against a.

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In the neck of time

JUST in the nick of time, as this sort of this new administration of the state is about to begin, the national debt is being brought under a tight rein.

It is interesting to find, in the case of the president of the Philippine Inflation Report Group, that the debt is being brought under a tight rein.

The first of two companies also announced the launch of a new product, the first of two companies also announced the launch of a new product.

It is not clear how much dispute the financial difficulties, simply because the government would not have the funds to pay them.

There is a real fear that this could happen to the institution. It is not clear how much dispute the financial difficulties, simply because the government would not have the funds to pay them.

At the same time, the government is also trying to bring the debt under a tight rein.

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BERNARDO R. CANALES, JR.

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Jan. BOP registers deficit of \$595M

THE PHILIPPINES recorded a trade deficit of \$595 million in January, a reversal of the surplus registered in the same period last year.

The deficit was the result of a \$1.4 billion trade deficit in goods, which was offset by a \$900 million surplus in services.

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RIISING DEMAND

Bank lending up 3.8% in Dec.

By Dora C. Dizon

LENDING by Philippine commercial banks rose by 3.8 percent to P1.9 trillion in December 2003 from P1.8 trillion in November.

This marked the third straight month that the banking sector showed lending expansion, although the annual increase was slightly less than the 4.3 percent growth recorded in November.

Banking sector's Philippine Government Bank (PGB) also showed a 3.8 percent increase in lending, which was accompanied by a 4.3 percent rise in domestic liquidity.

The said growth in lending during the month was backed by the 25.3 percent increase in loans to the construction sector and personal services sector.

Construction sector also saw an increase in lending, with the sector's growth rate of 25.3 percent, which was higher than the 17.6 percent growth rate in November.

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Credit card: Friend or foe?

By Tina Arnes-Dumala

FOR many Filipinos, a credit card is something that is out of the ordinary. It is a tool that is used to buy things, but it is not a tool that is used to buy things.

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FEATURE

Proper use

The United States has reported that the use of credit cards is increasing, but it is not a tool that is used to buy things.

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BIR readies new tax collection measures

By Michelle R. Reyes

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to introduce new measures to improve its tax collection system, including the use of credit cards.

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DTI calls on drug manufacturers to bring down medicine prices

By Rosend W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday appealed to drug makers' sense of social responsibility and asked for a lowering of their list prices.

"It would be a big relief for consumers if they could obtain their medicines at a discount," Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Cuyayan said.

He later asked drug companies to consider producing at more affordable prices so that the majority of the population can easily enough afford such drugs.

"We are not asking drug companies to sell at a loss," he said.

"What we are asking for is a meaningful price reduction as a result of the companies' belief in social responsibility," he added.

The official anti-pharmaceutical firm could take action from pharmaceuticals in the Philippines (DAP), which denied prices of its essential medicines by 30 percent through its essential medicines program.

At least 10 drugs for common ailments like malaria, infection, cardiovascular pain and arthritis were covered by DAP's program.

"We asked to drug companies to make their medicines more accessible to consumers," Padilla said.

"I believe that genuine medicines service government-making medicines within the reach of the poor," he said.

Padilla said that while drug prices were still high, consumers could buy branded but cheaper generic medicines from government hospitals under the DTI's Priority Medicines Program.

The agency requested the sale of medicines at as much as 50 percent cheaper than their retail prices.

For instance, the 20 milligram tablet for typhoid is a popular anti-malarial drug which sells at P29.75 each in drug

stores... could be bought at P1.75 in Priority Medicines.

Former professor Manolillo said it is a study on the big difference between prices of medicines sold in the local market and in other Asian markets.

After considering both Philippine and international prices, including income rates of the World Trade Organization, the DTI came up with the program to lower cost of essential medicines.

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